

**CITY OF COVINGTON
COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
JULY 14, 2015**

Council President O'Keefe called the regular meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Roll call was as follows:

PRESENT: John Callahan, Jerry Coner, Mark Wright, Larry Rolling, Rick Smith,
Lee Alexius and Sam O'Keefe

ABSENT: None.

A Moment of Silence was observed.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council President O'Keefe.

Council President O'Keefe expressed his excitement in beginning the second term in office and thanked the City Administration, Council and Mayor for working for the common good of the City of Covington.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Councilman Rolling made a motion to appoint Councilman Alexius as President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Wright. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call: Yeas: 6; Abstain: 1 (Alexius). Councilman Alexius was appointed President of the Council.

Councilman Smith made a motion to appoint Councilman O'Keefe as Vice President of the Council, seconded by Councilman Coner. There was no discussion by the Council or the public concerning this nomination. Roll call was unanimous to appoint Councilman O'Keefe as Vice President of the Council. Councilman O'Keefe was appointed Vice President of the Council.

Council President Alexius expressed his appreciation to Councilman O'Keefe for his leadership as Council President over the last year.

APPEARERS

Students Tyran Garrett and Shawn Warren and Coach John Burford from Covington High School were recognized by the Council and Mayor for their accomplishments in the recent powerlifting competition and wished success in the upcoming World Powerlifting Championships in Prague, Czechoslovakia.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Councilman O'Keefe made a motion to adopt the consent calendar, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt the consent calendar. The consent calendar was adopted.

REGULAR AGENDA

Unfinished Business

Items to be voted on:

1. PUBLIC HEARING AND ACTION ON ITEM NO. 2015-06-01 – An Ordinance of the City of Covington Levying, Imposing and Adopting the Current Millage Rates on All Property Subject to Taxation in the City of Covington, State of Louisiana, for the Year 2015 (Alexius)

Councilman Alexius led a discussion on Item No. 2015-06-01.

Councilman Wright made a motion to close the public hearing, seconded by Councilman Coner. There were no objections to closing the public hearing. The public hearing was closed.

Councilman Smith made a motion to adopt Item No. 2015-06-01, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Item No. 2015-06-01. Item No. 2015-06-01 was adopted.

New Business

Items to be voted on:

1. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-14 – A Resolution of the Covington City Council Adopting the St. Tammany Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan Update – 2015 (Alexius)

Director of Administration Gina Hayes led a discussion on Resolution No. 2015-14.

Councilman Rolling made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-14, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-14. Resolution No. 2015-14 was adopted.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council President Alexius recommended that the Council go into Executive Session to discuss the following pending litigation:

**United States District Court, Eastern District of Louisiana,
In re: Oil Spill by the Oil Rig “Deepwater Horizon” in the Gulf of Mexico on April 20, 2010, MDL No. 2179, Section J**

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Coner. Roll call was unanimous to go into Executive Session. The Council went into Executive Session at 6:17 P.M.

Councilman Wright made a motion to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Rolling. Roll call was unanimous to come out of Executive Session. The Council came out of Executive Session at 6:30 P.M.

Council President Alexius stated that no action or vote was taken during the Executive Session.

2. RESOLUTION NO. 2015-15 – A Resolution of the City Council of the City of Covington in the State of Louisiana, Accepting a Full and Final Settlement

of all Claims Against BP and Others Resulting From the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Authorizing the Execution and Delivery of a General Release and Other Necessary Documents and Providing an Immediately Effective Date (Alexius)

Council President Alexius read the entire Resolution No. 2015-15 into the record, which resolution indicated that the City of Covington will accept the amount of \$1,469,799.47 in full and final settlement of all claims against BP and others resulting from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill.

Councilman O’Keefe made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 2015-15, seconded by Councilman Wright. Roll call was unanimous to adopt Resolution No. 2015-15. Resolution No. 2015-15 was adopted.

COMMENTS AND REPORTS

A. Council District and Committee Reports

1. District A – None.

2. District B –

Councilman Coner recognized the July birthdays for City employees. Also, his quote for this evening was, “Time and chance happens to us all.”

3. District C –

Councilman Wright thanked the Administration for planning the Inauguration events and looks forward to another term working with the Council and Administration. Also, he mentioned that the Cemetery Advisory Board has met several times and will submit a report of its recommendations within the next few months.

4. District D –

Councilman Rolling announced that 11 new businesses applied for occupational licenses in June. Upcoming events: Coffee with the Mayor on Wednesday, July 29th at 9 A.M. at the Trailhead; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, July 31st from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; White Linen Night on Saturday, August 15th from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Sunset at the Landing concert on Friday, August 21st from 6 P.M. until 9 P.M.; Columbia Street Block Party on Friday, August 28th from 6:30 P.M. until 9:30 P.M.; and the Farmer’s Market every Wednesday and Saturday. Also, he encouraged the public to support our local businesses. Also, he thanked the Administration for the great Inaugural celebration and looks forward to serving the citizens of District D for another four years.

5. District E –

Councilman Smith announced that the next Sunset at the Landing concert will be on Friday, July 17th and encouraged the public to remain in the immediate area of the concert and refrain from trespassing on private property. Also, he reminded everyone that the next CBA meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 5th at Mac’s on Boston Street, social starts at 5:30, meeting at 6 P.M.

6. At Large (Vice President) – None

7. At Large (President) –

Council President Alexius announced that the CHDC will meet tomorrow night. Also, he announced that P&Z will meet next week, with the Zaxby’s Restaurant matter being the only item on the agenda. Also, he acknowledged that Councilman Rolling has been elected to the COAST Board of Directors for a three year term and congratulated him on his appointment. Also, he announced that in order to give Administration more time to prepare the 2016 Budget, there will be only one Council meeting in September, on September 15th, at which time the 2016 Budget will be introduced.

B. Administrative Comments and Reports

1. Mayor Cooper's comments:

- (a) He commented that the Inauguration was a great ceremony and looks forward to working with the Council over the next four years.
- (b) He reminded everyone about the Covington Community Prayer Breakfast which will be held on Friday, July 17th at 7 A.M. at St. Paul's Briggs Assembly Center. This event will be hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Greater Covington and Life Resources. Also, he mentioned that the guest speaker will be Mark Whitacre.

Councilman Smith requested an update on the Old Fire Station Feasibility Study.

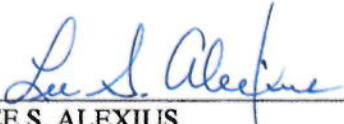
Mayor Cooper responded that the consultants have been invited to appear at a Council meeting in August to give a brief presentation on their recommendations for the rehabilitation of the Old Fire Station.

Councilman Rolling suggested, in anticipation of the new school year beginning soon, that Public Works cut the grass and clean the sidewalks leading to the local schools.

Mayor Cooper recommended that a work order be submitted to Public Works for the requested grass cutting/cleaning.

2. Gina Hayes, Director of Administration-None.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.



LEE S. ALEXIUS
Council President



BONNIE D. CHAMPAGNE
Council Clerk